found lead, when the cages were opened with the permission of the Customs Authorities. There was no direct involvment of Air India in this incident.

For bringing cows from West Germany to India, four charter flights were operated by MISR OVERSEAS AIRWAYS who were selected by the charters and importers. On a charter fight which was operated on 23rd January, 1987, 16 cattle had died. The charter flight on 2nd February, 1987 which was to operate via Rasa-al-Khaimah as a technical and refueling halt, was diverted to Muscat due to poor visibility 21 cattle died on this flight which was reported to be due to late positioning and malfunctioning of ground equipment at Muscat airport. In this case also, Air India|Bombay Airport authorities were not directly involved.

On the of an inquiry held into the death of cattle, the remaining cattle chareaters are being entrusted to a different airline. M|s. MISR Overseas Airways have been put on notice for indemnifying the claims for compensation/ damages.

Health hazards in Bombay

1718 SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL :

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of cancer and phenomenal spurt in complaints of chest pains, cough, burning eyes and other ailments were reported in early February in Bombay caused by a poisonous among for a number of days; and

(b) if so, whether any steps were taken in this respect to assist the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Government have seen prees reports about the incidence of cancer and various other ailments due to a smog in Bombay in early February 1987. Experts are of the opinion that there can not be any sudden increase in cancer cases due to smog. However, exposure to smog can result in an increase in respiratory ailments, burning sensation in eyes, etc.

A series of steps have been taken by the Government of Maharashtra to control various types of pollution which cause such smogs.

Corruption in issuing driving licences by STA in Delhi

1719. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the flourishing touting business market at the State Transport Authority (STA), Delhi in securing licences by the untrained and inexperienced persons for driving passenger Vehicles which is becoming the main cause for the increasing number of road accidents in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to identify the racket to check the corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) Delhi Administration have intimated that although certain unauthorised persons are reported to be operating outside the premises of Motor Licensing Branch, the issuance of driving licences to the prospective applicant by this Branch is done only on successfully passing the test of driving competence.

(b) Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration with the assistance of local police and Municipal Corporation have removed squaters from outside tthe premises of Motor Licensing Branches. Instructions have also been issued to the concerned staff not to entertain any unauthorised person in the office complex. Strict action is taken against the violation.

For the convenience of public, information relating to procedures of different jobs being done by the Directorate is given through public address system.

Health problem ascribed to Soft drinks

1720. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the various health problems ascribed to soft drinks;

(b) whether Government propose to stop TV/All India Radio advertisements in this regard;

(c) whether any in-depth scientific studies have been conducted on the deleterious effects of soft drinks;

(d) whether the use of saccharine caffe, phosphoric and citric acids etc. is permitted despite scientific evidence of their harmful effects;

(e) whether any cases of adulteration have been detected; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof state-wise, for the last three years and prosecutions launched and punishments awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Government is aware and accordingly specifications of soft drinks have been laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules and the products conforming to these specifications are not harmful.

(b) It is not considered necessary.

(c) Scientific studies conducted on the possible harmful effects of soft drinks have revealed that consumption of soft drinks conforming to the prescribed standards under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, are unlikely to cause any harmful effect.

(d) Use of saccharine, caffeine phosphoric and citric acids is permitted in carbonated water within safe limits keeping in view the Average daily intake recommended by F.A.O./W.H.O. Codex Alilmentaries Commissionr Carbonated water conforming to the specifications laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration rules, are considered safe.

(e) and (f) The cases of adulteration detected, prosecutions launched and punishments awarded during the last 3 years as available State-wise are given as under:

Name of the State/UT	No. of sample found Adulterated	No. of prosecutions launched	Punishments awarded
1. Andhra Pradesh	40	19	..
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	..
3. Gujarat	42	42	..
4. Haryana	76	76	..
5. Jammu & Kashmir	2 (1985)	..	..
6. Karnataka	1	1	..
7. Kerala	15	15	..
8. Rajasthan	25	25	..
9. Chandigarh	12	12	..
10. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	2	..
11. Goa Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	..
12. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	..
13. Lakshadweep	..	..	..
14. Pondicherry	8	7	..
15. Orissa	Nil	Nil	..